

a1 the Fc portion of human IgG1. Infliximab, or REMICADE, is a humanized monoclonal antibody that neutralizes the activity of secreted TNF. Both ENBREL (Etanercept) and REMICADE (Infliximab) potently bind TNF and block inflammation by inhibiting the downstream effect of this cytokine. ENBREL (Etanercept) can bind to lymphotoxin alpha as well as to TNF.

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Page 3, please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

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a2 [0009] ENBREL (Etanercept) has been reported to have several side effects, which include possible exacerbation of bacterial infections, including sepsis.

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Page 4, please amend paragraph [0014] as follows:

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a3 [0014] According to the present invention, compounds that neutralize the effects of secreted TNF not only eliminate the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, but also reverse the clinical symptoms associated with hepatitis. Thus, the present invention includes treating a patient suffering from hepatitis with a compound that neutralizes the effects of secreted TNF by inhibiting p75:FC, such as ENBREL (Etanercept) or REMICADE (Infliximab).

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Page 4, please amend paragraph [0016] as follows:

a4  
[0016] A patient was identified with typical symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, including polyarticular joint swelling and pain. The patient also had evidence of active hepatitis, which was characterized by chronic and persistent elevations of hepatic transaminases (AST, ALT) as well as a marked elevation of serum hepatitis C viral RNA. The patient was treated with various DMARs and NSAIDS for a period of three years, and showed very little signs of relief from rheumatoid arthritis. The patient was then selected for treatment with ENBREL (Etanercept) at 25 mg. twice weekly.

Page 5, please amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

a5  
[0018] The patient was administered 25 mg. of ENBREL (Etanercept), an extracellular ligand binding protein of the human p75 TNF receptor linked to the Fc portion of human IgG1, twice weekly for five weeks. After five weeks of treatment with ENBREL (Etanercept), the rheumatoid arthritis showed 20-30% symptomatic improvement. The hepatitis symptoms after treatment included viral RNA of 165,000 units and a normalization of liver enzymes, including aspartate transaminase and

. In re Appl. N 09/925,970  
Confirmation No. 4363

as alanine transaminase, on repeated testing after five  
weeks of treatment with ENBREL (Etanercept).

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